

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 /076 W

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R 071337Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2352

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AO, NI, ZA

SUBJECT: ZAMBIA AND ANGOLA: WAITING OUT THE COUNT DOWN

1. WITH FOUR DAYS TO GO UNTIL ANGOLA IS PRONOUNCED INDEPENDENT, ZAMBIA HAS CAUTIOUSLY ADOPTED PUBLIC POSTURE OF NEUTRALITY AMONG THREE WARRING MOVEMENTS. PRIVATELY, OF COURSE, PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS SYMPATHETIC TO UNITA AND PROBABLY QUIETLY PLEASED WITH NEWS REPORTS THAT PORT OF LOBITO AND ALL BUT EASTERN PORTION OF BENGUELA RAILWAY HAVE BEEN LIBERATED FROM MPLA CONTROL. ZAMBIANS OBVIOUSLY FEEL CONSTRAINED KEEP SUCH PLEASURE WELL CONCEALED NOT ONLY LEST FORTUNES OF WAR IN ANGOLA ONCE AGAIN TURN AGAINST UNITA AND MPLA RECOVER LOBITO BUT LEST ZAMBIA ANTAGONIZE PRO-MPLA GOVERNMENTS OF TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE UPON WHOSE GOODWILL ZAMBIA STILL WHOLLY DEPENDENT IN GETTING ITS COPPER TO MARKETS.

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2. AS EVIDENCE OF ITS NEUTRALITY, ZAMBIA PLAYED HOST THIS WEEK TO THREE-MAN MPLA DELEGATION (LUSAKA 2141) WHICH WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA. DELEGATION RECEIVED MODEST FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION IN ZAMBIAN PRESS INCLUDING DELEGATION LEADER TEIXEIRA'S ALLEGATION THAT MPLA REVERSES IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA WERE CONSEQUENCE OF INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF UNITA AND FNLA BY SOUTH AFRICANS, ZAIROIS, AND PORTUGUESE MERCENARIES. NETO APPEAL TO OAU FOR ARMS AND POLITICAL SUPPORT TO REPEL THIS INVASION ALSO PUBLISHED.

3. IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED NOV 6 FOLLOWING VISIT OF NIGERIAN FONMIN GARBA, HE AND ZAMBIAN FONMIN BANDA REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR OAU EFFORT TO DEFUSE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN ANGOLA AND CALL UPON ALL PEACE-LOVING GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLE TO REFRAIN FROM ACTS WHICH TEND FAVOR ONE LIBERATION MOVEMENT OVER ANOTHER.

4. GRZ-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL, IN EDITORIALS APPEARING NOV 4 AND 7, HAS CALLED ON ALL THREE ANGOLAN MOVEMENTS TO OBSERVE OAU CEASEFIRE, AND AGREE TO FORMATION OF COALITION NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. PARTY-OWNED AND ALLEGEDLY CONTROLLED TIMES OF ZAMBIA TOOK SHARPLY CRITICAL "PLAGUE ON ALL YOUR HOUSES" APPROACH, ASSERTING THAT NO ANGOLAN MOVEMENT IS INNOCENT OF USING OUTSIDE RESOURCES AGAINST FELLOW ANGOLANS OR COMMITTING UNPARDONABLE SINS AGAINST ANGOLAN POPULATION. COMMENT: HARSHLY CRITICAL TIMES COMMENTARY WHICH SEEMS TO CALL INTO QUESTION NATIONALIST CREDENTIALS OF UNITA'S JONAS SAVIMBI AS WELL AS THOSE OF OTHER ANGOLAN LEADERS, MAY HAVE BEEN AMONG REASONS WHY PRESIDENT KAUNDA FIRED ITS LEFTIST DEPUTY EDITOR IN CHIEF ON NOV 5 (SEPTTEL).
WILKOWSKI

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